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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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TWO ILLEGAL ALIENS INDICTED IN COCAINE CONSPIRACY

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that a federal grand jury has returned a one count indictment charging Salvador Perez-Perez and Domingo Orduno-Esquer, both illegal aliens from Mexico, with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 50 kilograms or more of cocaine. The indictment alleges that, as part of a Mexican cocaine distribution conspiracy, the defendants agreed to receive approximately seventy (70) kilograms of cocaine that had been illegally imported into the United States from Mexico. The estimated street value of the cocaine is \$1.4 million.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The defendants face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, a \$4,00,000 fine, and a period of supervised release of at least five years.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Baltimore, Maryland, Tucson, Arizona and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and New York City, the Drug

Enforcement Administration, Baltimore City and Prince George's County Police Departments, Maryland State Police, and the United States Attorney's Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Harry M. Gruber.